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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,617	04/03/2001	Peter Kellman	4239-55207	3282

7590 06/30/2003

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EXAMINER

ARANA, LOUIS M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of a ghost artifact cancellation technique using a converter and a phase array combiner in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all claims read on the elected species. This is not found persuasive because a conversion step or mean is absent from claims 26-27, which claims do include an adaptive calculation step absent in the remainder of the claims.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 26-27 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 6

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-25 and 28-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by

Ma et al. P.N. 6,483,308

Ma et al. discloses a method correcting phase errors in Magnetic Resonance Images. MRI data is acquired using an array of receiver coils such as those shown in Fig.2. As most simply described in the abstract of the disclosure, the images are reconstructed (i.e. FFT converted) before the phase correction is applied to the data in the image

domain. The process followed, clearly amounts to ghost cancellation by "phased array ghost cancellation processing" as claimed.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kellman, Felmlee and Xiang et al. Disclose MR imaging correction methods. Note the abstract of each disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis M. Arana whose telephone number is (703) 305-4913. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs. Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F Gutierrez can be reached on (703) 308-3875. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2859

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3431.



Louis M. Arana
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2859

lma
June 25, 2003